



COLLECTION BIN FOR A LAUNDRY

FIELD OF THE ~~INVENTION~~ INVENTION

- 5 This invention relates to collecting bins that are used in commercial laundries in particular for the sorting of laundry before or after washing.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

- In commercial laundries the items to be washed, or which have already been washed, are
10 typically sorted by hand into the different classifications and weighed into the correct batch size for further processing. The items are sorted into multiple hoppers or bags usually between 1.5m and 2.5m in height that are held at the ground so that they can be weighed. With some sorting systems the items are sorted directly into the bags. When the correct batch weight has been reached within the bag it is released from the static and replaced by an
15 empty bag so that sorting can continue. The first bag is transported on an overhead rail system to the next stage in the process. Other sorting systems utilise a stationary hopper or sack. When the correct batch weight has been reached within the hopper/sack it is discharged onto a moving conveyor belt. This conveyor belt then deposits the batch of items into a bag which is then transported on an overhead rail system to the next stage in the process with
20 both of these sorting systems it is necessary to have either a raised platform for the sorting operation or an excavation in the front for the sorting station to be mounted in, to achieve a working level for convenient sorting.

This has a number of disadvantages:

- 25 a) the operator is working above ground level and must be protected from mis-hap.
b) elevated work stations are expensive to build, and
c) the laundry delivery system, whether manual or by conveyor, has to deliver the items to be sorted to the elevated work platform so that for example a conveyor